

## **Open Space Committee Meeting Minutes**

Date: Monday, October 24, 2016

Time: 7:02 PM

Place: Ipswich Town Hall, Town Manager's Conference Room

### **Attendees:**

Members:

Wayne Castonguay, Chair

David Feldman

Gordon Harris

Ralph Williams

Staff:

Associates:

Carolyn Britt

Andy Crocknell

Larry Eliot

Dave Standley

Planning Board Liaison:

Observers:

### **Meeting Agenda**

#### **1. Citizen queries**

None

#### **2. Acceptance of Minutes from September 2016 meeting**

After correction of the spelling of Larry Eliot's name, the draft minutes of the regular and executive session meetings of September 22, 2016 as circulated were accepted, on motion of Harris seconded by Feldman, by unanimous vote.

#### **3. Ipswich OSC presentation on Prioritizing Open Space Acquisitions at the Greenbelt Essex County Open Space Conference – Working Session**

Castonguay stated that this conference, scheduled for November 12 in Haverhill, is to include a joint presentation by the Ipswich and Beverly Open Space Committees, as indicated above. He said it was a

bit unclear how this came to pass but we seem to be committed to participating. He has amended the title of the presentation by adding the question “Is It Possible?”. This was followed by extended discussion by Williams and others on the Committee’s past efforts to prioritize the 85 parcels on the original Open Space Bond List. Those efforts led ultimately to assigning each parcel to one of three priority categories, High, Medium and Low.

It was agreed that Castonguay and Williams would work together (and with Beverly?) to develop a presentation.

#### **4. Pony Express Development and Outreach Plan**

This agenda item was intended as an opportunity for the Open Space Program Manager to discuss with and be assisted in estimating development costs for the intended Town portion of the property, that is, the athletic fields, associated parking, the use of the stables “barn”, and matters such as addressing any issues with the on-site irrigation system. There was a side discussion about current public perception of the probable town role in the future acquisition of this parcel. Williams mentioned the range of options for the future use of the “barn”, including converting its interior for uses associated with athletic fields, selling or renting it for equestrian usage, and demolishing it.

The condition and usage of the on-site water well and it’s irrigation pumping and overhead distribution system were discussed. Efforts to contract with a local “well and system installation contractor” have been frustrated by the current substantial backlog of work enjoyed by all of these contractors because of the current drought situation.

Engagement of a consultant firm was suggested.

The need for an outreach plan, in anticipation of a special town meeting, was discussed.

In the absence of the Open Space Program Manager, no conclusions were reached.

#### **5. Items not reasonably anticipated**

Standley noted that the establishment by FEMA of increased maximum coastal flooding elevations by 3 feet could have an impact on the future developability and cost of acquisition of coastal open spaces.

**6. Executive Session for the purposes of land acquisition**

The Chair noted that there were three items to be discussed in executive session, and invited a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing land acquisition, consideration of which in open session would be detrimental to the land acquisition process. Williams so moved and Harris seconded, and the motion passed on unanimous rollcall vote. The committee entered executive session at 7:43 PM, returning to open session at 8:35 PM.

**7. Other Business**

The Committee plan to have an Open Space Information Table at the YMCA on Election Day has been tabled on information and belief that the Y will not allow it due to expected crowding.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Open Space Committee was set for Monday, November 28 at 7:30 PM, location TBD.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, on motion of Williams seconded by Harris the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

David Standley, Secretary

These minutes are the summary of a recorded meeting and of secretarial notes. As such, the Ipswich Open Space Committee reserves the right to supplement these minutes with tapes and vice versa, to reflect the proceedings. The Ipswich Open Space Committee does not guarantee the quality of the tapes, nor does it exclusively rely upon them.